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*J.W. for
Reg. for
Reg. 87-87*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
JASON A. POIRIER et al.)	Group Art Unit 3726
)	
Serial No. 09/392,270)	
)	Examiner Trinh Nguyen
Filed: September 9, 1999)	
)	
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD)	Attorney Docket 1-21036
OF MANUFACTURING A)	
VEHICLE FRAME ASSEMBLY)	

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

RESPONSE

Honorable Sir:

In response to the Official Letter, Paper No. 9, dated September 13, 2000, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art as set forth in the specification. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 defines the invention as a method for manufacturing a vehicle frame component that includes the steps of providing a workpiece, performing a scanning heat treatment process on the workpiece in a continuous and longitudinal manner from one end to the other, and deforming the workpiece to form a vehicle frame component.